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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, July 1 -

50 FOOD SHIPS AID JAPAN; 389,250 TONS OF RELIEF WHEAT SENT BY U.S. IN 9 MONTHS--San Francisco--Wheat shipments from Seattle and Portland for relief and rehabilitation of Japan have filled nearly fifty ships in the last nine months, according to tabulation today by Albert W. Gatov, executive director of the Pacific American Steamship Association.

Mr. Gatov said that a shipload of food and commercial fertilizer left one of the West Coast ports every three days bound for Japan. Wheat shipments for the nine months totaled 389,250 tons, with phosphate rock second in quantity with 212,500 tons, going out principally from Olympia, Wash., and Oakland, Calif. Corn shipments aggregated 34,500 tons from Pacific Northwest ports.

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BRITAIN TO IMPOSE MORE IMPORT CUTS--London--An austerity import program designed to conserve dollars during the coming twelve months was laid before a sombre House of Commons today by Hugh Dalton, Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr. Dalton told the House that the gravity of Britain's dollar position made it necessary to do everything possible to close the gap between the high import volume and the comparatively low export trade.

The new curbs will aim mainly at petroleum, films, newsprint and luxury food imports but they carry also the threat of further curtailment in import of tobacco from the United States.

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FOUR-MONTH EXPORTS OF FOOD \$823,743,000--Washington--Exports of foodstuffs from the United States for the first four months of 1947 totaled \$823,743,000, the Department of Commerce reported today. This represents an increase of \$213,000 compared with a year ago.

Foodstuffs imports for the first quarter of 1947 were valued at \$598,519,000, representing an increase of \$18,157,000 or 43.8 percent above the 1946 period.

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From the Journal of Commerce, July 1 -

OLD AGE PENSIONERS CAN WORK ON FARMS--Washington, AP--President Truman signed today legislation by which old age pensioners may be allowed to draw assistance checks while they serve as farm workers or civilian nurses. Wartime authority under which the States can disregard agricultural and nursing earning in making old age assistance available was extended by the President's signature to July 1, 1949.

The House Ways and Means Committee reported the legislation is needed to take care of a general shortage in nurses and a lack of farm labor, particularly in Oklahoma and Texas.

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From Wall Street Journal, July 1 -

FARM PRICE JUMPS of the past year haven't been "pure gravy" for farmers. Individual increases are impressive. Here are some at-the-farm price samples, mid-June 1946 compared with mid-June 1947: Wheat, \$1.74 and \$2.18 per bushel; rye, \$1.45 and \$2.40; corn, \$1.42 and \$1.85; hogs, \$14.30 and \$23.30 per hundred-weight; beef cattle, \$13.80 and \$19.50; eggs, 33.5 and 41.5 cents per dozen.

But the average price of all things farmers sell, says the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, has climbed only 24% in the 12 months. Some staples haven't shown such sharp gains. Among these are dairy products, poultry, barley, and peanuts.

And that isn't the whole story. The cost of things farmers buy, according to BAE figuring, has climbed more than 22% since last June. Comparing prices received with prices paid, BAE finds the farmers only 1.7% better off net-profit-wise.

What worries many farm experts now is this: Since reaching a peak in March, the farmer's selling prices have been declining, while costs of things he buys stick at the high point.

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#### SUGAR'S FREEDOM FROM RATIONING TO HOME USERS IS KICKING UP PROBLEMS.

Industrial consumers are still rationed. And, say the sugar men, it's this half-free, half-slave status of the major sweet that causes trouble. Reason: Some small industrial users are slyly getting sugar (unrationed) at retail outlets. Retailers can sell 100 pounds to a buyer without asking questions.

One big bakery claims its truck drivers now bring cakes back to the plant unsold, with this explanation: "The retailers say they don't want them because they are getting cakes with thicker icings from small bakeries."

Sugar men think the third quarter boost in the industrial ration--from 75% up to 85% of 1941 use--may help relieve the trouble. But they doubt an end to the trouble.

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MORE SOYBEANS MAY BE THE RESULT OF CORN FIELD WASH OUTS. It's too late for most corn belt farmers to replant corn in patches that have been flooded out. But there's still a week or two left for soybean planting. The 1947 soybean crop is officially estimated at 196 million bushels. But grain experts now feel certain it will top 200 million.

That's a lot of soybeans. Last year's record crop was 197 million bushels. But pre-war 1939 produced only 87 million. And the 1928-37 average was a bare 22 million.

Soybeans are a major oil crop. Higher output will bring more relief from the world-wide fats-and-oils shortage.

Government experts still think the corn crop, despite too-much-rain losses, will be near three billion bushels this year. That would be a quarter billion less than last year's record, but about half a billion better than an average crop.

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FATS AND OILS prices are pointed lower. Crude soybean oil costs 17½ cents a pound today. But you can get delivery promised this fall and winter at 16 cents and lower. Cottonseed oil brings 22 cents a pound now; September delivery is available at 18 cents.

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